

STRICTURES ON MR. MACKENZIE'S CONDUCT AT TORONTO DURING THE INSURRECTION, 1837, ANSWERED.

To Thomas Ridd, Esq., Editor of the Reformer, New York.

Sir—In your excellent newspaper of the 16th instant, I find an account of Mr. Mackenzie's proceedings in Canada, during the insurrection at Toronto, in 1837, which, with the very kindest intention on your part does him great injustice.

I am a native of Scotland, just returned from a Brit. prison. In the Canadian revolt I took a very active and decided part; witnessed Mr. Mackenzie's conduct from first to last; was taken prisoner after his defeat; and in the winter of 1837-8, occupied a cold and dismal cell in company with the gallant Captain Matthews and General Van Egmond. I was very heavily loaded with chains and fetters, the effects of which and the excessive cold, wet and frost. I yet feel. One of my comrades, Captain M. was removed from the dungeon to the scaffold, on which he suffered with our friend Col. Lount. General Van Egmond intreated to be removed as he was very old, but they kept him in it till he was so frozen and chilled that he had only to be sent to their hospital and thence to his grave. With your countryman John G. Parker and others, I was successively carried to Fort Henry, Quebec, Liverpool and London, and should have now been in slavery at Botany Bay had not Messrs. Hume, Roebuck, Ashurst, Hill and other generous and good men taken our case before the Queen's Court at Westminster. The final decision of the Judges was adverse to the wishes of the government, and Lord Brougham brought the whole matter before Parliament, on which we were restored to liberty on giving our own recognizances not to approach within sixty miles of the Canada frontier. Our treatment in the prisons of the Colonies was very hard, but in England we were much better treated than Mr. Mackenzie is here. The people of Liverpool and London showed us great kindness, for which I will ever feel grateful.

You mention that if you have fallen into error you will be glad to correct it. I think your mistakes material, and therefore hope that this letter will be published.

The people of Upper Canada had not, as you suppose, a majority in their legislative assembly at the revolt. Even Sir F. B. Head, in his Narrative, admits that had that been the case, England would have abandoned Canada; and Lord Durham in his Report states that the elections were carried by intimidation, fraud and corruption.

You assume that if Mr. Mackenzie had possessed the daring qualities some have ascribed to him, he could have taken the Canadas in a month and Toronto in a night. It is well known to all who witnessed his conduct that it is not to any want of energy or decision on his part that the failure is to be ascribed. He persevered to the very last.

A hundred of the bravest citizens could have been armed so as to surprise Toronto any night at an hour's notice; but to give permanence to such a movement it was necessary that the country should be prepared to support the town, and take such ulterior measures as might be deemed essential to the common welfare. The leaders of the insurrection had agreed that a general armed meeting of the insurgents from various parts should be held at Montgomery's Hotel, near Toronto, on Thursday the 7th of Dec. 1837, there to back the citizens in their object of attaining an independent legislature. Mr. Mackenzie, at a previous meeting held at Lloydtown, refused to lead the military operations, and Messrs. Lount, Anderson and others were there named to command. Mr. Mackenzie had written to General Van Egmond and other military persons of skill to be on the ground on the evening agreed on. He placed much reliance on those persons; and was employed in the country organizing the people when tidings were brought him that the gentleman who acted as our executive in the city had suddenly ordered Col. Lount and as many as he could muster to march on Toronto so as to be there on the Monday. The roads were bad, the distance 40 miles, and the messenger made his important errand known to half the country before delivering to Col. L. the important order which he most reluctantly obeyed. This movement was not made with Mr. Mackenzie's knowledge or consent; on the contrary he sent Mr. Gibson's man to stop its progress, but it was too late. The news of the reverses in Lower Canada had dispirited many, and when Col. Lount arrived at Montgomery's on Monday evening, he had with him only 80 or 90 wearied men who had marched through mud and mire nearly 40 miles, carrying their arms.

Of the condition of the city after ten that day nothing was known. None of the gentlemen who had called out this party either joined it, or sent any word. Had Mr. Mackenzie been the leader Toronto was ours. I was present and saw all, and what I state now will not be contradicted. Mr. M. advised that a guard be placed on the roads and with three of his comrades secured a number of prisoners. He advised that we should instantly march and take possession of the city, and offered to head those who would do so. I well remember that he was very generally opposed. Col. Lount, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Gibson, who came later, strongly objected

to his proposal, until intelligence was obtained of the state of the town, or until our numbers were strengthened. When his earnest entreaties were found to be in vain, he next offered to risk his life by riding into the city with only three friends, although a warrant for high treason stared him in the face, there to rouse our comrades, gain the tidings wished for, prepare for an attack as early in the night as possible, and bring Doctors Rolph and Morrison back with him. Captain Anderson and two others volunteered their services to go with him.—The night was quite dark.

They had not rode far when they met Howell, the present Mayor of Toronto, and Major McDonnell, whom Mackenzie arrested and sent back with Captain A. and Mr. —, strictly charging them to keep the prisoners in front of them. Mackenzie then continued his course for the city with one companion, a daring act, but evidently necessary in the state of feeling of the men, in order to effect a surprise. Before they got into the town, Mayor Powell, who had shot Captain Anderson with a concealed pistol, rode past them. Mr. M. chased and came up with him, on which Powell came close up to Mackenzie and presented a loaded pistol to his breast, which flashed in the pan. Mackenzie fired but missed Powell, who escaped, and after concealing himself behind a log, reached Sir Francis, awoke him from his sleep, and thus enabled him to prepare. Mackenzie recaptured Major McDonnell and a person whom the justices had sent to warn the government of its danger and returned to Montgomery's where he found Col. Moodie of the British army dying, and Capt. Stewart of the Navy in custody of our friends; they had shot at our guards, but failed to pass them.

Other messengers whom we had sent to town never returned. No one came from thence. On Tuesday at noon, we were on our march to the city greatly increased in strength, when we met Dr. Rolph, our own executive, and the Hon. Robert Baldwin, with a flag of truce from Sir Francis, asking what we wanted. Sir F. had previously put his family on board a steamer and was ready to leave the province. Our reply was—"A free convention of the people." They returned, and Dr. R. advised us to follow him in half an hour, which we did in 2 divisions. When a mile from town the same messenger returned and brought Sir F.'s refusal, and then Dr. R. privately advised that we should enter the city at dark, while he, meantime, would prepare the town folks. We waited.

We marched on the city again as soon as it was dark, our numbers being above 700 men, for I stood and counted them in threes and passed onwards. We had taken Capt. Duggan and others of Sir F.'s officers prisoners, and were about half a mile from the market square when a party of the loyalists headed by the sheriff fired a random shot and ran—there were about 15 of them. Col. Lount and those of our riflemen in front fired back, and Mr. Mackenzie, who was between the enemy and our people, narrowly escaped a shot from ourselves. He hastened back and bade them to stop firing, but a panic had seized the rear, and in a short time nearly our whole force was on the retreat.—Mr. Mackenzie on this handed me Capt. Duggan's pistol, and ordered me to ride back and tell the cowards there was nothing to be afraid of. I did so, but it was of no use. At length he joined me, and we threatened to shoot them if they did not halt. When they came to a stand, Mr. Mackenzie told them that the steamers were sent off for the orangemen of the other districts; that if our people were in such terror he had no doubt but that the Tories were more frightened still; that what would be child's play that night, might be impracticable on the morrow, and even asked them how they could think of looking wife or sweetheart in the face if after all their pretended bravery they acted the part of poltroons and cowards, and let slip the noblest opportunity of delivering Canada ever offered to man? All he said was of no avail; he then asked many persons by name if they would go, and at length said—"Is there any twenty of you that will accompany me into the city—join our friends there who await us in hundreds, and drive the Tories before us or perish in the attempt?" I said I would, and two or three others, after Mr. M. had touched their feelings, agreed to go; but no more.

Next morning, although there were many new faces, our 750 had dwindled down to 200. Mackenzie called them together, apologized for his strong censures of the previous night, reminded them that he had set them an example which if they had followed, Toronto would have been theirs; told them the enemy had been largely reinforced, but they would yet succeed if they had but confidence in themselves. Mackenzie, Lount, and a select party, of which I was one, set off to collect fire arms, of which we stood greatly in need, to take certain prisoners, and bring in the mails from and to the United States and England; all which we did. On Thursday the Tories 2000 strong, with a couple of field pieces, worked by artillerymen from the regular army, marched out to meet us, and spread such consternation among our guard and spies that they fled, without warning us of their approach. We had now a number of very brave men with us, although in all not over 400 were in our camp. Mr. Mackenzie, as soon as

he saw the enemy, galloped towards them, returned, and intreated us to stand and fight them. It was his daring and rashness for which his friends blamed him. He seemed to fear nothing.

One of our leaders had left for the States on Wednesday morning, another remained in his house, was taken and tried, but never came near us; a third, Mr. Gibson, chose to find fault with Mackenzie's plans on Thursday morning, though sanctioned by Gen. Van Egmond, who had just arrived, and indeed suggested by him. Mr. Gibson's discontent led to a council of war, a re-election of officers, and great loss of time. I voted for Mr. Gibson as Captain of my company; we elected him unanimously; but he left his post the moment he saw the enemy, as did many more—nearly half—while Lount and Mackenzie, with as many as they could persuade to join them, stood and fought the Tories as long as there was even a hope of success, their numbers being not one to the enemy's ten. So unwilling was Mackenzie to leave the field of battle, and so hot the chase after him, that he distanced the enemy's horsemen only thirty or forty yards, by his superior knowledge of the country, and reached Col. Lount and our friends on the retreat just in time to save his neck.

Had Mackenzie not been thwarted from first to last we would have been instantly victorious at Toronto; and his plan was to seize the steamers and at once march into Fort Henry on our way to Montreal. Perhaps it is wrong to blame the people. Not trusted with arms, kept in terror of the government, unused to war, prematurely called out, and never joined by those who had urged them on, but feared to make common cause with them, they had no confidence in themselves, and lost a golden opportunity of gaining their freedom. On various occasions since they have fought well, and will fight better when they get used to it. As to Mackenzie, the facts I state are well known, and the day is not far off in which all parties will admit their truth; although ill success, loss of property, exile and imprisonment have thinned the number of his friends for the present.

I remain, Mr. Editor,
Your faithful servant,
WILLIAM ALVES.
Montgomery's Hotel,
Rochester, N. Y. Oct. 19, 1839.

FOREIGN.

ARRIVAL OF THE G. T. WESTERN With Twenty-one Days Later News. (From N. Y. New Era.)

This very successful and rapid vessel left Bristol at 4 o'clock, p.m. on the 19th ultimo, and arrived here at 11 o'clock, on Saturday evening; thus making her passage in the remarkably short time of 14 days and 7 hours.

The important news of the suspension of the United States and other Pennsylvania banks had not then reached England, although it seems to have been conjecturally anticipated in some of the public prints. In the meantime, Mr. Jaudon had succeeded in "raising the wind" to the tune of four millions of dollars, or £800,000, from the Bank of England!—the stock of which was then quoted at 103 1/2 in the London market! Instead of 64 and 65 as it is here now! The effect of this loan may possibly be to raise the stock a little here for a few days, but its reaction upon the Bank of England will probably be tremendous.

This transaction of the Bank with Mr. Jaudon is looked at already with a great deal of suspicion by the mercantile and monetary community of Liverpool, and the money market articles from the 11th to the evening of the 18th ult., inclusive, speak of it as a very questionable and mysterious question. One of them says, "the public must be content with what is permitted to be known, but will naturally look to the result with no great confidence so long as this reserve is maintained."

A very remarkable discovery concerning the exportation of specie from England to the continent, within the last ten months, and which seems still to continue, is calculated to still further depreciate the management of the Bank of England in the confidence of the public. It appears that official returns of the exports of gold and silver, are in the hands of some of the principal merchants, and the accuracy of which is not to be disputed, that no less than £6,247,375 have been exported within that period! And the following extract from the London Morning Herald of the 18th ult. shows that the exhausting drain still continues:—

"The exportation of the precious metals from the port of London to foreign ports for the week ending Monday is as follows:—Gold bars to Hamburg, 2852 oz.; do. to St. Petersburg, 130,750 oz.; gold coin to Hamburg, 4050 oz.; silver coin to Canton, 45,230 oz.; do. to Gibraltar, 8000 oz. do. to St. Petersburg, 222,000 oz.; do. to Hamburg, 55,500 oz.; do. to B. W. Indies, 1825 oz.; do. to Syria and Smyrna, 11,025 oz."

How the Bank of England will stand the fatigue of all this, with the discreditable affair of Mr. Jaudon's dexterous bargain at the back of it remains to be seen. The Bristol Journal has the following article:—

"We have reason to believe that an order in council would before this have been issued at the request of the bank, for the suspension of specie payment and the issuing again of one and two pound notes,

had it not been discovered, by a high legal authority, that parliament must first have been assembled to give its sanction—a reason, no doubt of quite sufficient importance to induce the Melbourne ministry to refuse the suggestion of the bank."

The following are the only additional items of foreign news which we deem of sufficient importance to occupy our columns to day:

The cotton trade remains nearly as per the last advices.

The state of the crops in England is variously represented. Messrs. Sturge of Birmingham, in their monthly circular issued on October 17th, say—"The accounts from many parts of the kingdom concur in stating a serious deficiency in the crops, especially in the northern districts of England, and in Ireland."

The crops of Scotland for the most part, have suffered most deplorably from continued rain, and an average is not expected.

Throughout England and Scotland, a fortunate change in the weather had greatly mitigated the previous ill prospects of the agriculturists, and enabled them to secure a large share of a pretty fair harvest. It was believed that the crops would prove neither full nor short, but a fair average. In Ireland, however, the deficiency was computed at one third, and, taking the inferiority of the grain into consideration, the shortness of the wheat crop was estimated at one half. A Dublin paper of the 7th ult. states, as an illustration, that two-thirds of the wheat exhibition at the Corn Exchange that day was bought up by distillers, at rates as low as from 19s to 22s.

A great riot had taken place between the English and Irish labourers on the Chester and Birkenhead railway—the former being 250 and the latter 300—armed with pick-axes, shovels, bludgeons, &c. The Irish were victors. A great many were severely injured, several to such a degree that their lives were despaired of. The police made prisoners of sixteen.

A crack-brained Scotchman has been apprehended for making love to Her Britannic Majesty. The queen stood the attack without surrendering. His name is James Bryan.

The Great Western made her last trip out in little less than 15 days.

The King of Holland was about being married to the Countess Outremont.

WINDSOR, Sunday Evening.—Mysterious Outrage at Windsor Castle.—Stones thrown at the window of her Majesty's private sitting room.—A most extraordinary affair has just taken place at the castle, which has created the utmost alarm and excitement throughout her Majesty's household. The greatest mystery on the subject prevails at the castle, and it has been with some difficulty that our informant has been enabled to obtain any of the necessary particulars. It may be as well, first, to give the following brief account which appeared in the Windsor Journal of last evening:—

"Extraordinary Occurrence.—A report is current, although an attempt has been made, as our informant states, 'to hush it up,' that during the night of Wednesday last, several panes of glass were broken (from the exterior of the queen's dressing-room or one of the rooms immediately adjoining the bed-room of her Majesty.) It is likewise stated that the next morning Lord Melbourne sent a message to Colonel Boys, urging that some inquiries on the subject should be made of the sentinels who were on duty at the castle during the night. The result of these inquiries has not been made public, and the whole affair appears wrapped in mystery."

The following particulars have since reached us:—

"On Thursday morning last, about 8 o'clock, when some servants of the castle entered the private sitting room of her Majesty (which is situated at the south eastern corner of the building,) they discovered that during the night the centre pane of the window, which is of extremely thick plate glass, had been starred (in which state it now remains) as if something had been hurled at it from the outside; and on their going into an adjoining room, facing the same aspect, and opposite the long walk, some three or four of the windows were discovered to have been broken; and on searching about the room, three flint stones, of pretty considerable dimensions, were found under the chairs. Mr. Russell, one of the inspectors of police, attached to the castle, was immediately apprised of the circumstances, and no time was lost in instituting the necessary inquiries as to who was the aggressor."

FRANCE.—The Parisian intelligence is up to the 16th ult. Fresh rumours of intended changes in the cabinet were afloat in Paris. They seem, however, to have been suggested more by the arrival of M. Thiers in town, than founded on facts deserving attention. No change, would, it was generally believed, take place before the assembling of the Chambers.

Further arrests of persons engaged in the insurrection of the 12th May last had taken place. The arrest of M. Blanguet, a leader in the insurrection, with several of his accomplices, occasioned considerable excitement.

SATURDAY, Oct. 12.—Paris Market and Commercial News.—Several cargoes of wheat have arrived at Marseilles from the ports of Italy and the Black Sea. The prices of corn, however, in the mar-

kets in the vicinity of the capital have not as yet diminished; the millers buy up all the corn they can lay their hands on, at the same time holding back their flour, except on exorbitant terms, so that the 48 loaf still continues at 18 sous, (6 2/3), and is likely to remain at that price for some time.

Little improvement has as yet taken place, and various branches of commerce and trade in general are in a most depressed state. Reproduction and opposition are at their height, but corresponding outlets are wanting. Discounts are with difficulty effected, and bankers will hardly take any bill beyond three months.

The city of Ghent was the theatre of tremendous riots, the beginning of October. The rioters and military had an engagement in which numbers got badly wounded. A paper of the 4th announces that the city was declared in a state of siege, but the Monitor does not mention the circumstance. A great number of arrests had taken place.

The journals give various details dated the 3d October. "Two hundred workmen, women and children, went to the manufactory of M. Ruyek, where the men were still at work, to order them to leave off. After a violent dispute the proprietor judged it prudent to stop work. The same happened at other manufactories."

SPAIN.—The dates from Madrid are to the 9th Oct. They contain, however, little news. Great preparations were in progress for the celebration of the birthday of the Queen (the 10th ult.) The prevailing belief was, that the ministers would be able to hold their places, but "provided that Espartero reduced Cabrera"—a subject on which some misgiving seems to be entertained at Madrid as well as Paris. The authorities are shutting up most part of the convents in the Basque Provinces. The inhabitants were turned adrift. Much anxiety was expressed for the issue of Espartero's movements against Cabrera.

The war against Cayera is determined upon in good earnest. Espartero is marching against him with a large force, preceded by Cabanero, that intrepid partisan, who was the first of Don Carlos's officers who left the Basque provinces, and penetrated to the environs of Madrid. Cabanero served some time with Cabrera, and is well acquainted with the country in which that chieftain acts. Letters received at Paris, from Cabrera, represent him as undismayed at such mighty preparations, and determined to hold out to the last.

The Paris National says, positively, that Don Carlos has authorised his agent at Paris, the Marquis de Labrada, to recognize, in his name, the government of the Queen of Spain, and to write officially to Cabrera and the Court d'Espagne, ordering them to lay down their arms. The same person says, that several persons high in place in France, proposed to create a loan for Spain on the revenues of Cuba and the Philippine islands being guaranteed for the interest. Marshal Soult listens to the proposal, but neither Robichon or Agudo will have any thing to do with it. The National adds that the passports of Don Carlos are only retained until an answer be received from Vienna, respecting his proposed residence in the Austrian dominions. A Berlin paper, however, says that the prince has asked for refuge in the Prussian dominions.

SAN SEBASTIAN Sept. 26.—Our news from Navarre by this day's post is, indeed, extremely satisfactory, as it brings us the confirmation of the total submission of the province of Navarre, the last garrison of which has acknowledged the authority of the Queen and Constitution. I feel convinced you will partake, in a great measure, of the unqualified satisfaction given by this news, coupled with the wise and conciliating measures of the Duke de la Victoria throughout the whole of his career in the province of Navarre, and which have in so great a degree tended to restore the exasperated people of that province to their allegiance to the throne of Isabella.—[Cor. London Chron.]

TURKEY.—The latest intelligence from Constantinople, received at London, was to the 28th Sept., and from Alexandria the 26th.—The burthen of all the correspondence is, "no news of political nature." The Alexandria correspondent of the London Morning Chronicle, under date of Sept. 26th, says:—

"The Turkish fleet is still here, and will not be given up without a struggle. The crews are relaxing in the little discipline they ever had; both officers and men are most discontented with their position. As regards the latter, the question of interest to them is neither Russian nor Egyptian; but they are no longer regularly paid, and are much worse fed than is the Sultan's service. With many of the officers, I have conversed on the subject, & they openly express their indignation at their present position; but their ships are disarmed, and under the guns of the forts and the Pacha's fleet."

In politics every thing awaits the decision of the Five Powers. If unfavorable to Mehmet Ali, he will resist, unless in face of a very active and decided demonstration on the part of Europe. He at present treats the matter lightly; and being now convalescent (having been for some days seriously ill) has started on a little tour in the Delta, by which he will escape the persecution of the diplomatists.

England and China.—The affairs of